

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the specification and rejected claims 9-14 and 16-20 in view of prior art references. In the present response, Applicant has amended claim 9 to set forth the claimed subject matter more clearly and added new dependent claim 21. Further, Applicant has amended the specification to update the reference to the parent application. Accordingly, in view of the proposed amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 9-14 and 16-21.

Interview Summary

In a telephonic interview on April 14, 2005, which was conducted with the undersigned, the prior art references and proposed amendments to the claims were discussed with the Examiner. Based on this discussion, the claims have been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter, which are provided above. The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's explanation of the rejections and discussion of the proposed claim amendments.

Objection to the Specification

In the Official Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because the cross-reference application data has not been updated to incorporate the patent number of the parent application. In the present response, the Applicant has amended the paragraph on page 1 after the application title "Cross Reference to Related Applications," as suggested by the Examiner. The amendment is believed to update the cross-reference application data. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 9-14, 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. 5,515,915 to Jones et al. (herein referred to as "'915 patent") and U.S. Patent No. 5,868,200 to Bryant et al. (herein referred to as "'200 patent"). The Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over the '915 patent, '200 patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,435,391 to Jones (herein referred to as "'391 patent"). Further, the Examiner rejected claims 9-14, 16, 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '915 patent, '200 patent and U.S. Patent No. 5,161,618 to Jones et al. (herein referred to as "'618 patent"). Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '915 patent, '200 patent, '618 patent and '391 patent. Although Applicant does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's rejections, the Applicant recognizes that the claimed subject matter could be set forth more clearly. Accordingly, the Applicant has amended independent claim 9 to recite that the fracturing string is "configured to form a completion interval annulus with said wellbore" and that "blockages are formed in said completion interval annulus adjacent to at least some of said perforated sections to isolate said levels of said completion interval annulus between said perforated sections." As the prior art does not disclose at least this claimed subject matter, independent claim 9 and its dependent claims 10-14 and 16-20 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, the Applicant has added new claim 21 that recites that the "perforated sections are spaced from each other along said blank base pipe at a distance of from about 10 feet to about 1000 feet." Because the prior art does not disclose this subject matter in addition to the subject matter of claim 9, claim 21 is believed to be allowable over the prior art references. As such, claims 9-14 and 16-21 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 9-14 and 16-21. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Brent R. Knight, Reg. No. 54,226
Attorney for applicant

ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company
P.O. Box 2189
Houston, Texas 77252-2189
Telephone: (713) 431-4563
Facsimile: (713) 431-4664

Certification under 37 CFR §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10

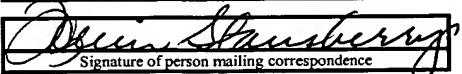
I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this application/correspondence attached hereto is being:

MAILING

deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.
37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

with sufficient postage as first class mail.
37 C.F.R. § 1.10

as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"

Monica Stansberry
Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence
 Signature of person mailing correspondence

N/A
Express Mail mailing number
April 18, 2005
Date of Deposit

TRANSMISSION

transmitted by facsimile to the Examiner Jennifer H. Gay at the USPTO facsimile number: